

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

7. – 21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A driver for driving a load with a secondary power supply voltage obtained by stepping a primary supply voltage level using a charge pump circuit that has a multiplicity of stages, each of said stages including a switching element and a capacitor, wherein:

an associated capacitor of the first stage of said charge pump circuit is energized by the one of the voltages impressed on the capacitors of said multiplicity of stages that is closest in value to the primary supply voltage level; and

said associated capacitor having a higher frequency response than that of at least one of the other said capacitors of the subsequent stages.

23. (New) A driver for driving a load by a secondary power supply voltage obtained by stepping a primary power supply voltage using a charge pump circuit that has a multiplicity of stages each including a switching element and a capacitor, wherein

a first capacitor of a first stage (first stage capacitor) of said charge pump circuit is energized by the lowest voltage of the voltages impressed on the capacitors of said multiplicity of stages; and

said first-stage capacitor has a higher frequency response than that of at least one of said capacitors of the subsequent stages.

24. (New) The driver of Claims 22 or 23, wherein said primary supply voltage level comprises the primary power supply voltage level.

25. (New) The driver of Claim 23, wherein the voltage to which the associate capacitor is energized is the lowest voltage of the voltage impressed on the capacitor of said multiplicity of stages.

26. (New) The driver of Claims 22 or 23, wherein the primary supply voltage is stepped-up to provide the secondary power supply voltage and each of the stages is a stepped up stage.

27. (New) The driver of Claims 22 or 23, wherein the primary supply voltage is stepped-down to provide the secondary power supply voltage and each of the stages is a stepped down stage.

28. (New) The driver of Claim 22, wherein said associate capacitor has a lower internal resistance than of at least the one of said capacitors of the subsequent stages.

29. (New) The driver of Claim 23, wherein said first stage capacitor has a lower internal resistance than of at least the one of said capacitors of the subsequent stages.

30. (New) The driver of Claim 28, wherein the associate capacitor has a lower internal resistance than all of the other of the capacitors of the subsequent stages.

31. (New) The driver of Claim 29, wherein the first capacitor has a lower internal resistance than all of the other of the capacitors of the subsequent stages.